

From: Todd Stubbs
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 11/20/01 11:52am
Subject: Please don't let them off so easy!

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my disappointment over the US Justice Department's decision to settle the Microsoft anti-trust case.

I have been a professional user and programmer of microcomputer technology since 1983. Almost from the very beginning of their existence, Microsoft has been more than merely aggressive -- they have been deceitful and, I believe, unethical. Their behavior as a company has always been egregious, even if it has not always been illegal. However, at that point in time when they became a monopoly, whenever that was, this pattern of immoral behavior became illegal as well.

The conundrum, of course, is what to do about it. I do not believe that heavy government involvement in regulating the affairs of Microsoft is in either the public's or Microsoft's best interest. And yet, any regulation or injunction you put forth, they will find a way around it, or merely ignore it as they have done in the past. It would seem that there is little else the Justice Department can do to but ask for some remedy that would change Microsoft's structure -- nothing else will work.

Let me also debunk the myth that what is good for Microsoft is good for the economy. It is patently false, simplistic thinking. Microsoft has squelched so much good technology so that their own, often mediocre, products will prevail in the marketplace, that the doldrums the technology industry recently faced may never have happened had the Justice department defended a true market economy several years ago when Microsoft faced a similar charge. In my estimation, the market would already be 2 to 10 times as large as it is now if it hadn't been for Microsoft's egregious behavior.

Microsoft is the single most anti-innovative force in the technology industry today. Period.

Letting Microsoft off easy would probably provide a next-quarter, short-term benefit, but would continue to restrain the innovation and growth as it has done (except for Microsoft) for the last 10 or 12 years. Please, do not do this!

Respectfully yours,

S. Todd Stubbs
Instructional Research & Design
Center for Instructional Design
Brigham Young University

Provo UT 84602

(801) 378-3069